(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for rural development in Panchayati Raj Institutions

†85. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for handing over the Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant for the rural development and the resources related to them to the Panchayati Raj Institutions directly;

(b) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would also consider providing the amount directly to Panchayats so that they can get money on time?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) All Ministries operating Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been asked to review their schemes in the light of Article 243G read with the Eleventh Schedule with a view to incorporating into the Schemes the Constitutional provisions in this regard in letter and spirit.

(b) No time limits have been fixed for the completion of this exercise, which is an ongoing process.

(c) The National Common Minimum Programme provides for funds to be channeled to Panchayati Raj Institutions without diversion or delay, subject to strict monitoring.

Devolution of Powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions

86. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) when the Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Pooma Swaraj, as envisaged through the historic Panchayati Raj Legislation passed in the Parliament about twelve years ago, would result in devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions at grassroot level;

(b) whether the present persuasive methods being adopted during the last one decade through conferences/meetings with State Level Ministers/functionaries would help in achieving the purpose;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the last one decade through conferences/meetings with State Level Ministers/functionaries would help in achieving the purpose;

(c) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(d) whether a constitutional amendment will have to be resorted as seemed to be the general feeling in the December, 2004 Panchayati Raj Conference held in Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In view of the uneven implementation of Part IX of the Constitution over the last 12 years since the passage by Parliament of the 73rd Constitution Amendment, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created on 27 May 2004 with a view to promoting the accelerated and more even implementation, in letter and spirit, of the relevant Constitutional provisions, so as to more effectively visualize Gandhiji's goal of "Poorna Swaraj through Gram Swaraj". Between July 2004 and December, 2004 seven Round Tables were held with the Ministers of Panchayati Raj in the States where 18 dimensions of the Panchayati Raj were discussed. At the end of the seven Round Tables in December, 2004, about 150 recommendations were adopted by consensus. It is now expected that as they are themselves party to these conclusions, State Governments will now be implementing these Resolutions for strengthening the PRIs with all deliberate speed. As Panchayati Raj is a State subject, it is not possible to fix any timeframe, but the Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the implementation of the agreed conclusions with each of the State Governments concerned. Particular attention will be paid to adherence to such time-lines as have been specified in the conclusions. In consultation with the State Governments, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj will continue its efforts towards fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi as set out in Part IX of the Constitution read with Article 243ZD of Part IX-A relating to district planning.

(d) No, Sir, nor was there any agreed conclusion at the Round Tabie in Jaipur that any further Constitutional amendment was required, although some suggestions to this effect were made during the deliberations.